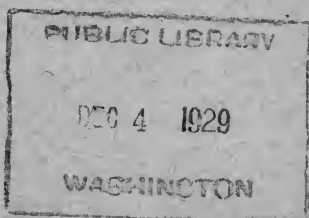
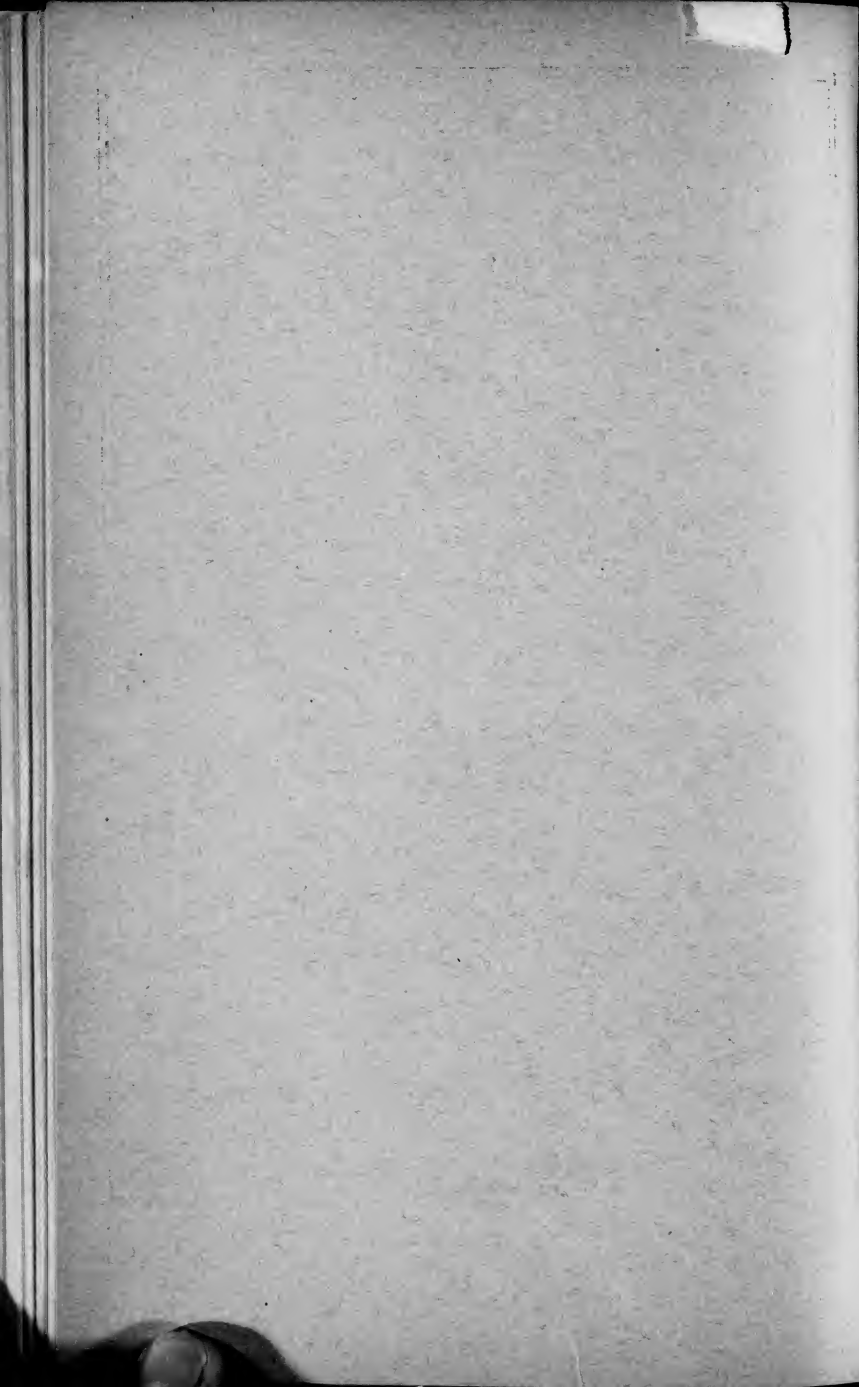


**18th Annual Report of the
Department of Playgrounds
District of Columbia**

1929





EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT *of* PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1929

MRS. SUSIE ROOT RHODES - - - - Supervisor



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EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 16, 1929.*

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

The supervisor of playgrounds submits herewith her fourteenth report, which is the eighteenth annual report of the department of playgrounds. This covers the period from July 1, 1928, to June 30, 1929.

With the opening of the new playground at Sixth and L Streets SE., on July 1, 1928, the total number of municipal playgrounds operated reached 29. These with the play station at Children's Hospital made a total of 30 regular stations under this department 12 months of the year.

In addition to the municipal playgrounds, 43 school yards were supervised during the summer, and of these 14 were kept open with supervision after school during the fall and 12 during the spring term. During January and February 2 white and 1 colored school yards were supervised after school. The department has also under its supervision the 4 concrete tennis courts on Reno Reservoir, the 3 municipal swimming pools on the Monument Lot, 3 playground swimming pools, 5 playground wading pools, and 1 wading pool in East Garfield Park, kept open for colored children at the request of Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d.

Realizing that if the playgrounds are to continue to be attractive to the children an extensive program of activities must be carried on to accommodate the ever-increasing number of frequenters, every phase of the work has been enlarged. An example of this may be found in the annual field and track meets that have been conducted for the past five years. At first each playground held a meet and then entered a team in the city finals, sufficient to give all the boys and girls who desired to indulge in this form of exercise the opportunity.

As the numbers entering increased a series of dual and triangular meets were arranged, and during the year of the present reporting it was found that the demand for this form of activity was so great that three stages of preparation for the city finals were arranged. First the grounds held their own meets, then entered teams in dual and triangular competition, and then the city was divided into conferences, or sections as it were, and the conference championships were competed for by hundreds of enthusiastic youngsters.

It is the same with all playground activities. Where one league served several years ago, four are needed now, and it has been the aim of the leaders to watch as carefully the activity of the individual on the enlarged program as they did when fewer children were cared for.

It is fully realized by the playground directors who spend much effort in impressing the children that games can be as harmful as beneficial if overindulgence is permitted. Whenever possible the director receives information from the school principals naming the physically subnormal children. For these interesting games are arranged but without attracting attention to the child and he is content without entering the more vigorous sports.

By careful supervision it has been found that special events can be conducted in the heat of summer with less ill effects than the average child would suffer following his own inclinations. The distances, number of events, and forms of competition are carefully planned to suit the day.

The most extensive program ever conducted for the elementary schools was sponsored by this department during the past year. Interschool leagues were organized for boys in soccer, baseball, and track with city champions being named in each, while divisional champions for girls were named in schlag and basket ball. Every school having an eighth grade was represented in the leagues by four teams in each sport, junior and senior teams for boys, and the same for girls.

Aside from the regular interschool contests in every school where it was feasible interclass leagues were arranged by the playground department and in all over 500 teams were organized, both spring and fall, by the playgrounds in the elementary schools.

Mass games were featured during the year but individual accomplishments were encouraged also, especially through the athletic button test in which the boy or girl strives for self-mastery rather than mastery of an opponent. The directors were careful to see that each youngster receiving the gold, silver, or bronze button, emblematic of his degree of playground proficiency, was capable of performing the required feats letter-perfect.

Baby shows that have been conducted on several playgrounds for a decade or more became city-wide in popularity last summer, and the majority of playgrounds, including those in school yards, held contests to decide the best babies in the neighborhood. In these contests the directors wisely refrained from acting as judges, calling in neighborhood doctors or other persons well informed on the qualities to judge children.

The industrial branch of the playground day continued to perform a most beneficial service to the children of the city. Instructions in basketry, raffia, needlework, knitting, flower making, and toy manufacturing are given a part of the daily program. Singing games, folk dancing, and story-telling remain the most delightful thing about playgrounds for the small children.

Swimming instructions were given in all pools, and Red Cross swimming and life-saving instructions were held at regular hours at the playground pools. All the pools were well attended, in fact, overcrowded often. At the municipal pools on the Monument Lot, free swimming classes for children were held each day at 9.30 a. m., and continued each half hour until 3.30 p. m.

The department continued to be the leader in the promotion of soccer in the District of Columbia. Aside from the elementary-school leagues, an interplayground series was formed and the league was called "Recreation" and divided into two sections of six teams each.

Plaza playground won the championship and was presented with the playground cup at a banquet for all Washington soccerists by Sir Esme Howard, British Ambassador.

Interplayground basket-ball leagues were formed for girls and boys, as were tennis tournaments. Before the championship round of the tennis was played each ground conducted a tourney and the champions of each met for the city title.

At the request of Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, the wading pool in East Garfield Park, for colored children, was supervised by this department for the first time during the past summer. A man was placed in charge who regulated hours for boys and girls, cleaned the pool twice a day, and supervised it while the children were using it.

The department was honored during the year by having Mrs. Coolidge, wife of the President, plant a memorial tree on the Chevy Chase playground as one of her last official acts. This was a part of the program indorsed by the Woman's City Club to have the wife of each President plant a tree on a playground.

The past year has been the most productive the department has experienced, not only because of the attendance but also because of the increased enthusiasm in all phases of the recreation movement.

LIST OF MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS

WHITE

- Bloomingdale*.—First and Bryant Streets NW.
Burroughs.—Eighteenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Chevy Chase.—Forty-first and Livingston Streets NW.
Columbia Heights.—Columbia Road NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
Gallinger.—F Street NW., between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets.
Garfield.—Second and F Streets SE.
Georgetown.—Thirty-third Street and Volta Place NW.
Happy Hollow.—Eighteenth Street and Kalorama Road NW.
Heover.—Second Street and Delaware Avenue SW.
Iowa Avenue.—Iowa Avenue NW., between Varnum and Webster Streets.
Mitchell Park.—Twenty-third and S Streets NW.
Montrose Park.—Thirtieth and R Streets NW.
New York Avenue.—First Street and New York Avenue NW.
Park View.—Warder and Otis Streets, NW.
Phillips.—Between Eighth, Ninth, Longfellow, and Madison Streets NW.
Plaza.—Second and E Streets NE.
Rosedale.—Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.
Takoma.—Fourth, Fifth, Van Buren, and Whittier Streets NW.
Thomson.—Twelfth and L Streets NW.
Twin Oaks.—Fourteenth and Taylor Streets N W.
Virginia Avenue.—Virginia Avenue SE., between Ninth and Eleventh Streets.
Ida May Gales Memorial Play Station.—Children's Hospital.
Van Ness Play Station.—Third and M Streets SE.
Reno Tennis Courts.—Donaldson and Ellicott Streets NW.

COLORED

- Barry Farms*.—Nichols Avenue, Anacostia, D. C.
Cardozo.—First and I Streets SW.
Howard.—Fifth and W Streets NW.
Logan.—Third and G Streets NE.
Payne.—Fifteenth and C Streets SE.
Rose Park.—Twenty-seventh and O Streets NW.
Willow Tree.—Third, Fourth-and-a-half, B, and C Streets SW.
 Sixth and L Streets SE.
East Garfield Park Wading Pool.—Second Street and South Carolina Avenue SE.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DURING THE SUMMER, 1928

WHITE

- Adams.*—Seventeenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Arthur.—First Street and Arthur Place NW.
Bancroft.—Eighteenth and Newton Streets NW.
Benning.—Anacostia Road, between Benning and Foote Streets NE.
Bowen.—Third and K Streets SW.
Brightwood.—Thirteenth and Nicholson Streets NW.
Brookland.—Tenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Buchanan.—Thirteenth and E Streets SE.
Congress Heights.—Congress Heights, D. C.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Eaton.—Thirty-fourth and Lowell Streets NW.
Emery.—Lincoln Road and Prospect Street NE.
Fairbrother.—Tenth and E Streets SW.
Fillmore.—Thirty-fifth and R Streets NW.
Force.—Massachusetts Avenue NW., between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets.
Hayes.—Fifth and K Streets NE.
Henry-Polk.—Seventh and P Streets NW.
Johnson.—Hiatt Place and Lamont Street NW.
Kenilworth.—Kenilworth Avenue, NE., between Ord and Polk Streets.
Ketcham.—Fifteenth and U Streets SE.
Ludlow.—Sixth and G Streets NE.
Maury.—B Street NE., between Twelve-and-a-half and Thirteenth Streets.
Orr.—Twenty-second and Prout Streets SE.
Oyster.—Twenty-ninth and Calvert Streets NW.
Peabody.—Fifth and C Streets NE.
Raymond.—Tenth Street and Spring Road NW.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Threlkeld.—Thirty-sixth and Prospect Streets NW.
Truesdell.—Ninth and Ingraham Streets NW.
Wallach.—Seventh and D Streets SE.
Weightman.—Twenty-third and M Streets NW.
Wheatley.—Montello Avenue and Neal Street NE.

COLORED

- Briggs.*—Twenty-second Street and Virginia Avenue NW.
Bruce.—Kenyon Street NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
Burrville.—Division Avenue and Hayes Street NE.
Cook.—North Capitol and P Streets.
Crummell.—Gallaudet Avenue and Fourteenth Street NE.
Deanwood.—Whittingham Street and Lane Place NE.
Giddings.—Third and G Streets SE.
Lovejoy.—Twelfth and D Streets NE.
Magruder.—Seventeenth and M Streets NW.
Smothers.—Forty-second Street and Benning Road NE.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DAILY, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, DURING THE FALL TERM

- Adams.*—Seventeenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Bennings.—Anacostia Road, between Benning and Foote Streets NE.
Bowen.—Third and K Streets SW.
Congress Heights.—Congress Heights, D. C.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets N. W.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Fillmore.—Thirty-fifth and R Streets NW.
Hayes.—Fifth and K Streets NE.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Wheatley.—Montello Avenue and Neal Street NE.

COLORED

Briggs.—Twenty-second and E Streets NW.
Cook.—North Capitol and P Streets NW.
Deanwood.—Whittingham Street and Lane Place NE.
Magruder.—Seventeenth and M Streets NW.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DAILY, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1929

WHITE

Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.

COLORED

Deanwood.—Whittingham Street and Lane Place NE.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DAILY, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, DURING THE SPRING TERM

WHITE

Adams.—Seventeenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Bennings.—Anacostia Road, between Benning and Foote Streets NE.
Congress Heights.—Congress Heights, D. C.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Fillmore.—Thirty-fifth and R Streets NW.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Wheatley.—Montello Avenue and Neal Street NE.

COLORED

Briggs.—Twenty-second and E Streets NW.
Cook.—North Capitol and P Streets NW.
Deanwood.—Whittingham Street and Lane Place NE.
Magruder.—Seventeenth and M Streets NW.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

WOMEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 9.00- 9.30 | Apparatus work or free and running games. |
| 9.30-10.00 | Organized games. |
| 10.00-10.30 | Stories. |
| 10.30-11.30 | Ring games, wading pool (girls). |
| 11.30-12.30 | Kindergarten, wading pool (boys). |
| 12.30- 1.00 | Goal throwing, horseshoes, quotes, or track instruction. |
| | Free play. |
| 1.00- 1.30 | 1. Stories or quiet games. |
| | 2. Attend to giving out material, disciplining ground, etc. |
| 1.30- 3.00 | 1. Basketry or construction work. |
| | 2. Athletic button test for boys. |
| | Tennis instruction or minor sports. |
| 3.00- 4.00 | 1. Athletic button test for girls. |
| | 2. Games for boys. |
| | Croquet or paddle tennis. |
| 4.00- 6.00 | Industrial work, sewing, knitting, crocheting, embroidering. |
| 6.00- 6.20 | Free play (time for getting ground in order for evening). |
| 6.20- 7.00 | Ring games, folk dancing, music. |
| | Make report of day's work. |

NOTE. Girls coming on at 9 a. m. follow No. 2 on program after 1 p. m.

MEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 9.00- 9.45 Baseball.
 9.45-11.00 Button test.
 11.00-12.30 Field and track sports (train for interplayground meet).
 12.30- 1.00 Lunch.
 1.00- 2.00 Baseball.
 2.00- 3.00 Apparatus work (stunts, chinning, etc.).
 3.00- 4.00 Button test practice (do not give tests at this time. Let the boys practice the various tests).
 4.00- 4.30 Horseshoes, quoits, conduct tournaments for boys in different weight and age classes.

LATE SHIFT

- 1.00- 2.00 Baseball.
 2.00- 3.30 Button tests and practice.
 3.30- 5.00 Field and track sports (train for interplayground meet).
 5.00- 6.00 Apparatus work, horseshoes, quoits.
 6.00- 7.00 Organized baseball game with two teams picked from your ground.
 Make report of day's work.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—FALL SCHEDULE

- 12.00- 1.00 Games (children's recess time from school).
 1.00- 1.30 Free play.
 1.30- 2.00 Stories or quiet games.
 Free and running games (either of these).
 Ring games.
 2.00- 3.00 Kindergarten.
 3.00- 3.30 Free play.
 Ring games
 3.30- 5.00 School athletics.
 Basketball and dodge ball (girls).
 Soccer (boys).
 Low organized games.
 5.00- 5.30 Volley ball, newcomb, corner ball, field ball, tin-can golf, prisoner ball, etc.
 Basket ball (boys).
 Free and running games.
 5.30- 6.00 Basket ball (boys).
 Horseshoes, quoits.
 New games.
 Apparatus.
 Make report of day's work.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SPRING SCHEDULE

- 12.00- 1.00 Games (children's recess time from school).
 1.00- 1.30 Free play.
 1.30- 2.00 Stories or quiet games, ring games (free and running games if weather is cold).
 2.00- 3.00 Kindergarten.
 3.00- 3.30 Free play.
 Ring games.
 3.30- 5.00 Public school athletics, baseball, schlag ball.
 5.00- 5.30 Low organized games or track events.
 5.30- 6.00 Quoits, tennis, tether, minor sports, etc.
 Make report of day's work.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SATURDAY SCHEDULE

- 9.00- 9.30 Apparatus work, goal throwing, free and running games.
 9.30-10.00 Basket ball (girls).
 Soccer or baseball.
 Games for small children.
 Low organized games.

- 10.00-11.00 Basket ball (boys).
Volley ball, field ball, newcomb, corner ball, dodge ball, and other games.
Stories.
- 11.00-12.00 Kindergarten.
Basket ball (boys).
- 12.00- 1.00 Free play.
Afternoon program left to director.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

WOMEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 10.00-10.30 Organized games, or free and running games.
- 10.30-11.00 Stories.
- 11.00-11.15 Ring games.
- 11.15-12.00 Kindergarten.
- 12.00- 1.00 Free play (lunch time).
- 1.00- 2.00 Athletic button test, organized games.
- 2.00- 2.30 Stories and quiet games.
- 2.30- 3.00 Paddle tennis, croquet, horseshoes, quoits, bean-bag games.
- 3.00- 5.00 Industrial work, sewing, embroidering, knitting, crocheting.
- 5.00- 5.45 Track instruction.
- 5.45- 6.00 Fix report of day's work.

MEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 10.00-11.00 Baseball (volley ball where baseball is not allowed).
- 11.00-12.00 Field and track events.
- 12.00- 1.00 Athletic button test.
- 1.00- 2.00 Free play (lunch time).
- 2.00- 3.00 Baseball.
- 3.00- 3.45 Horseshoes, quoits.
- 3.45- 4.30 Contests of various kinds (mass play, volley ball, stunts).
- 4.30- 6.00 Competitive baseball games (organize two teams and play seven innings).
- Make report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—FALL SCHEDULE

- 2.45- 3.00 Get ground in order for games.
- 3.00- 3.30 Low organized games (dodge ball, corner ball, prisoner ball, etc.).
- 3.30- 4.30 Interclass series.
Basket ball.
Dodge ball.
Soccer ball.
- 4.30- 5.00 Ring games or free and running games.
- 5.00- 5.45 Volley ball.
Line soccer.
Team games.
- 5.45- 6.00 Fix report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SPRING SCHEDULE

- 2.45- 3.00 Get ground in order for games.
- 3.00- 3.30 Ring games.
Free and running games.
- 3.30- 4.30 Schlag ball.
Volley ball.
Baseball.
- 4.30- 5.00 Dodge ball, corner ball, double-pass ball, prisoner's ball.
Quiet games.
- 5.00- 5.30 Novelty races.
Horseshoes, quoits.
Bean-bag games.
- 5.30- 6.00 Free and running games.
Fix report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SATURDAY SCHEDULE

9.00- 9.30	Apparatus work. Goal throwing, distance throwing.
9.30-10.00	Free and running games. Track.
10.00-11.00	High-organized games. Schlag ball, volley ball. Baseball.
11.00-12.00	Kindergarten.
12.00- 1.00	Free play. Fix report of day's work.

ATHLETIC-BUTTON TEST

The gold-button test signifying at least three years participation in playground activities and efficiency in swimming, vocational work, leadership, sportsmanship, throw for distance, folk dancing, and games, were awarded to 29 girls and 94 boys during the year.

The silver-button test, the symbol of the second degree of efficiency in sports were won by 135 girls and 256 boys.

The bronze-button test covering the first years' work for efficiency in sports were awarded to 777 girls and 1,060 boys.

GIRLS' BRONZE-BUTTON TEST

Goal throwing: Throw a basket ball into the basket twice out of six trials from the 15-foot line.

Dash: Fifty-yard dash in $8\frac{3}{5}$ seconds.

Balancing: Walk the length of the beam and return, using the high step; execute one original step. Contestants may have two trials.

Folk dancing: Two dances. Contestant judged in memory and spirit.

Swimming: Swim 20 feet.

Potato race: Run a potato race in 25 seconds. (Place 4 potatoes 10 feet apart, the first one being 10 feet from the starting line.) The contestant runs and picks up the first potato, places over the line; then the second, and so on until all are taken.

GIRLS' SILVER-BUTTON TEST

Throw for distance: Throw a basket ball, covering at least 50 feet.

Dash: Sixty-yard dash in $8\frac{4}{5}$ seconds.

Swimming: Swim length of playground pool (80 feet), using free style and back strokes.

Sportsmanship: Play in an organized series with at least six games on the schedule in any of the following: Basket ball, schlag ball, dodge ball, volley ball, or play through a tennis or tin-can golf tournament of the round-robin type.

Goal throwing: Throw a basket ball into its goal four out of six trials from the 15-foot line.

Folk dancing: Three dances (not used in previous test). Contestants judged in memory and spirit.

GIRLS' GOLD-BUTTON TEST

Leadership: Assist with kindergarten, ring games, or free games at least twice a week for a month, averaging two hours a week.

Sportsmanship: Be able to play and officiate at at least four of the following games: Basket ball, schlag ball, volley ball, tennis, dodge ball, and quoits.

Vocational: Complete two pieces of industrial work along the following lines—sewing, knitting, crocheting, and basketry.

Swimming: Swim out to person supposedly drowning, grasp with accepted hold, and tow the remaining length of pool.

Folk dancing: Four dances (not used in previous test). Contestant judged in memory and spirit.

Throw for distance: Throw a basket ball, covering at least 65 feet. A girl must complete four out of six activities to win a button. Only one button may be earned in a year.

BOYS' BRONZE-BUTTON TEST

Goal throwing (three out of six trials.): Contestant must throw three baskets out of six attempts from the 15-foot mark.

Dash: Fifty yards in eight seconds.

Running hop, step, and jump: Twenty-six feet.

Chin four times with body rigid.

Standing broad jump: Five feet four inches.

Swim: Thirty feet.

BOYS' SILVER-BUTTON TEST

Throw three strikes out of five from a distance of 50 feet. A strike is a ball passing over the home plate between the knee and shoulders of a batter about the height of the contestant. Batter should stand in erect position.

Dash: Sixty yards in eight seconds.

Running hop, step, and jump: Twenty-eight feet.

Chin six times with body rigid.

Swim the length of playground pool (80 feet), using back, crawl, and breast stroke.

Throw four goals out of six attempts from 15-foot line.

BOYS' GOLD-BUTTON TEST

Organize teams and officiate in 10 regulation games.

One hundred-yard dash: Twelve seconds.

Running hop, step, and jump: Thirty feet.

Chin eight times with body rigid.

Running broad jump: Sixteen feet.

Start at end of pool and swim to person in center supposedly drowning, take proper hold, and tow him remaining length.

A boy must complete four of the six events to win button.

Only one button a year may be won.

INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

The annual interplayground field and track meet has taken precedence over all other boys' summer activities. Certain rules were laid down to prevent the forming of all-star combinations and to make each playground representative of the neighborhood in which it is located. Consequently the meets have grown in popularity by leaps and bounds.

The rules that have done so much for the development of track as a playground sport are that no boy having won his high-school letter in any sport is eligible to compete in that sport in a playground meet, and that boys must enter the meet representing the playground nearest their home. As a result the less expert athlete, who otherwise would hold back from entering the meets because some recognized high-school star was entered in the event in which he wanted to take part, enters knowing that he has an equal chance of success.

By compelling the boys to compete with the playground nearest their home, the methods employed by many sport-competing bodies, of collecting the best performers from every section of the city to represent one neighborhood are effectively blocked. The 50 teams that vied for honors on the Plaza playground were well balanced and the competition was keen as a glance at the point scoring totals will reveal.

The meet was won by Iowa Avenue playground in the last event of the day with 21 points, Rosedale was second with 20 points, and Plaza was third with 19 points. The other point scorers were Weightman, 15; Garfield, 14; Adams, 13; Peabody, 13; Columbia Heights, 11; Bloomingdale, 8; Tenley, 5; Park View, 5; Wheatley, 5; Henry, 5; Johnson, 5; Brookland, 5; Twin Oaks, 4; Henry, 3; Corcoran, 3; Bowen, 1; Wallach, 1; Ludlow, 1; Virginia Avenue, 1; Maury, 1.

Some 2,300 boys swarmed the Plaza playground to compete for the city honors and during the heated competition 12 records were broken. The Washington Post awarded the first, second, and third boy in each event gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively, and the Post cup went to the winning team. Preparatory to the city meet events were held on all playgrounds with more than 16,000 competing.

EVENTS IN BOYS' TRACK MEET

70-pound class:

50-yard dash.
Running broad jump.
220-yard relay.

85-pound class:

60-yard dash.
Running high jump.
Running broad jump.
360-yard relay.

100-pound class:

60-yard dash.
Running high jump.
Running broad jump.
360-yard relay.

115-pound class:

70-yard dash.
Running high jump.
Running broad jump.
440-yard relay.

Unlimited class:

100-yard dash.
Running high jump.
Running broad jump.
Half-mile run.
440-yard relay.

COLORED INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

As on the white playgrounds elimination meets were held on all colored grounds in preparation for the city meet. The same rules applied and the Washington Post awarded medals to the individual place winners and a cup to the winning team.

Howard playground broke Logan's 3-year chain of victories by capturing the Post cup in a closely contested meet on the Cardoza track with 32 points. Cardoza was second with 22 points and Logan was third with 6 points. Other teams to score points were: Rose Park, 15; Cook, 10; Deanwood, 10; Briggs, 6; Sixth and L Streets, 5; Crummell, 5; Willow Tree, 5; Magruder, 2; Barry Farms, 1; Giddings, 1; Burrville, 1.

Nearly 1,000 boys took part in the meet and it was authoritatively stated by a student of colored athletics that it was the largest field and track meet ever held for colored boys in the United States.

EVENTS IN BOYS' TRACK MEET

85-pound class:

50-yard dash.
Running broad jump.
360-yard relay.

100-pound class:

60-yard dash.
Running broad jump.
Running high jump.
360-yard relay.

115-pound class:

70-yard dash.
Running broad jump.
Running high jump.
440-yard relay.

Unlimited class:

100-yard dash.
Running broad jump.
Running high jump.
440-yard relay.

BOYS' TENNIS

The intense interest in national and international tennis matches were reflected on the District playground courts, where some 1,200 boys vied for the singles city championship. The record-breaking number of 21 playgrounds held tourneys and sent champions to the finals.

After the eastern and western section champions had been decided, the two winners met in a final match to decide the Washington playground title holder for a year. After three exciting matches the Corcoran playground representative (the western section champion) defeated the Bloomingdale winner (eastern section) two sets out of three.

COLORED TENNIS

The Cardoza playground representative won the colored city tennis championship after one of the hardest fought tourneys in playground history. Seven winners competed in the finals and every match was hard but cleanly fought.

More than 425 boys played in the early rounds and the matches drew hundreds of spectators, among which were many parents. The age limit for the tourney was 16, and all material, including tennis balls and rackets, were furnished by the playground department.

INTERPOOL SWIMMING MEET

A feature of the summer in the playground swimming pools was the annual swimming meet between the Georgetown and Rosedale pools. Georgetown was representative of the western half of the city, while Rosedale included all of the eastern section.

All playground swimmers in the respective sections were invited to take part in the eliminations and consequently both teams were considerably strengthened for the finals. More than 400 boys took part in the eliminations, and Rosedale won the District playground swimming title. Rosedale scored 76 points to 50 totaled by the Georgetown natators.

EVENTS IN BOYS' SWIMMING MEET

70-pound class:

25-yard free style.
100-yard relay.
Beginners race.

90-pound class:

25-yard free style.
25-yard breast stroke.
100-yard relay.

115-pound class:

25-yard free style.
25-yard breast stroke.
25-yard back stroke.
100-yard relay.

Unlimited class:

25-yard free style.
25-yard breast stroke.
25-yard back stroke.
100-yard relay.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOCCER

With both senior and junior teams vying for city honors the elementary school soccer leagues conducted by the playground department had another successful year. As a result of the interclass leagues organized in the schools a year ago the junior kickers displayed a surprisingly good brand of the game.

After the 16 leagues had completed their schedules, 8 junior and 8 senior, the winners were matched in the city championship play. Blow School won the junior championship and Pierce the senior in the eastern section of the city, while Park View won both the junior and senior titles in the western section.

In the city championship in the city finals, Park View took two straight but hard-fought games from Pierce by 1 to 0 scores in both games, while Blow defeated the junior Park View representatives by the same margin in two games. Both champions were awarded custody of playground trophies for a period of one year.

INTERPLAYGROUND SOCCER

The playground department's Recreation Soccer League was composed of four more teams than the number that competed in 1927, making a total of 12 that vied for the championship. Playgrounds represented in the league were: Bloomingdale, Georgetown, Chevy Chase, Happy Hollow, New York Avenue, Park View, Takoma Park, Iowa Avenue, Plaza, Garfield, Rosedale, and Virginia Avenue.

The games started late in November and continued through March. All contests were played on Saturday afternoons, giving former elementary school boys who were employed an opportunity to compete. The Plaza 11, eastern section winners, won the championship after a thrilling duel with Park View, western winners.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASEBALL

Continuing its policy inaugurated in the spring of 1927, of organizing interclass competition in the elementary schools, the playground department had one of the most successful school baseball seasons in history. The interclass games rivaled the interschool matches for popularity and bids fair to surpass them in a few years as many more boys are brought into healthful exercise through intra-school activities than interschool. However, the interschool games reach a more colorful climax, the city championship, which creates interest even in the interclass games.

Both junior and senior competition were held in intra and inter school matches. In the senior interschool city championship series Wheatley School of northeast, triumphed over Monroe School, northwest representatives, to win the senior title, while Blow School of the eastern half of the District won the junior city title by triumphing over Janney, western winners, in two out of three series.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRACK

Monroe School won both the junior and senior city championship in the elementary school field and track-meet finals. Preparatory to the city meet seven division meets were held and the boys who were first, second, and third in these divisional games qualified for the finals.

For the first time a 70-pound class was added to the 85, 100, 115, and unlimited classes of previous years. The extra weight class increased the entries in the divisional meets by 300, bringing the total to 2,350, while the city-meet competitors were increased by 188, placing 788 boys in the finals. The events in the track meet were the same as in the interplayground track meet except for the half-mile run in the unlimited class.

COLORED SWIMMING MEET

The Howard swimming pool was the scene of a large swimming meet for colored boys and girls during August. Events were arranged for the girls and their meet held early in the afternoon with the boys' races following. Individual prizes were awarded the first, second, and third contestants in each event.

GIRLS' TENNIS

In the girls' tennis, doubles were played and after each playground had held eliminations the winner and runner-up were named representatives of their respective grounds to meet other winners in the city finals. On August 16 the eastern champions, Garfield playground, met the western winners, Montrose playground, on the Plaza courts amid a colorful scene of flags and gaily bedecked surroundings.

The Garfield girls defeated the Montrose pair, 6-2, 2-6, and 7-5 and were awarded trophies emblematic of their victory. Hundreds of spectators viewed the final match and were loud in acclaim of the ability shown by the youthful tennis exponents.

FIELD AND TRACK EVENTS

Slightly more than 900 girls met on the Plaza playground track in the fifth annual interplayground field and track meet for girls on August 31. Rosedale playground won the championship and the Washington Post cup for the second consecutive year with 34 points.

The other point scorers were far behind, totaling scores as follows: New York Avenue, 16; Plaza, 16; Iowa Avenue, 12; Garfield, 9; Threlkeld, 8; Phillips, 7; Hoover, 6; Bloomingdale, 5; Maury, 4; Virginia Avenue, 4; Peabody, 3; Bowen, 3; Park View, Columbia Heights, Corcoran, Congress Heights, Georgetown, Cooke, and Janney, 1 each.

In addition to the field and track events, quoit matches, schlag, tennis, and novelty games were competed in by the various playgrounds. More than 4,000 girls had taken part in preliminary meets to qualify for the finals. The Washington Post presented medals to the place winners.

EVENTS IN GIRLS' TRACK MEET

70-pound class:	100-pound class:
40-yard dash.	60-yard dash.
Potato race.	Throw for distance.
Throw for distance (volley ball).	Running high jump.
Novelty race.	220-yard relay.
85-pound class:	115-pound class:
50-yard dash.	60-yard dash.
Throw for distance (basket ball).	Throw for accuracy.
Running high jump.	Quoit throw.
Novelty race.	Novelty event.

SWIMMING

The past summer was one of the most enjoyable that girl swimmers have experienced in the playground pools. Instructions in swimming and life-saving were given and on several occasions during the summer novelty and comedy events were staged for the amusement of the pool frequenters.

The annual swimming meet was won by Rosedale playground, which defeated Georgetown 79 to 56. It was the first time in five years of competition that Georgetown dropped the title cup to the northeast swimmers.

As a climax to the summer pool work a representative of the American Red Cross gave a pageant in each pool, demonstrating the history of the swimming from the beginning of time. During the pageant, which was portrayed by the girls that frequented the pools, the Red Cross director informed the spectators of the meaning of the actions of the performers.

EVENTS IN GIRLS' SWIMMING MEET

10 to 12 year class:	15 and 16 year class:
25-yard side stroke.	25-yard breast stroke.
25-yard free style.	25-yard free style.
Balloon race.	Candle race.
13 and 14 year class:	16 years and over class:
25-yard free style.	25-yard breast stroke.
25-yard side stroke.	25-yard free style.
Flag race.	Balloon race.

INDUSTRIAL WORK

The usual exhibitions of the handwork of the children on playgrounds was held during the last week in August. This work was a demonstration of what the girls did on the playgrounds on the warm summer afternoons and included sewing, basketry, raphia work, clay modeling, and toy making. Parents were invited and attended the exhibitions in large numbers.

GIRL'S BASKET BALL

Girls representing the Chevy Chase playground won the annual interplayground basket-ball tournament after surviving sectional and divisional play. Garfield, which won the eastern section championship, was Chevy Chase's opponent in the finals but was no match for the northwest winners.

Twenty teams with slightly more than 300 girls competing played in the leagues. At the end of the season a banquet was held on the Chevy Chase playground for the four teams that had won sectional titles. The supervisor of playgrounds attended and presented trophies to the winners and runners up.

DODGE BALL

Dodge ball, which heretofore had been played during the fall months as an interschool and interclass game, was introduced during the past spring as a competitive sport for the younger elementary school girls and proved quite as popular as it was in the cooler months.

Leagues were formed for girls in the fifth and sixth grades and 72 teams with players numbering slightly over 1,000 took part in league play during the spring months.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHLAG

With 48 well organized schlag leagues in the elementary school during the past spring the playground department reached its highest peak of development of girls' sports in the grade schools. Of these 48 leagues, 32 were planned for interclass competition.

Two years ago when the interclass games were first stressed the teams used the name of the grade represented, such as 6A, 5B, etc., but last spring one of the directors had the happy thought to name the teams for the teacher of the grade and as a consequence the girls took considerable more interest in the games, feeling as they did that they were playing for the glory of their teacher as well as the classroom.

The regular interschool division champions were: Seniors—Bloomingtondale, Keen School; Columbia Heights, Park View School; Garfield, Wallach School; Happy Hollow, E. V. Brown School; Plaza, Gales School; Virginia Avenue, Lenox School; Rosedale, Benning School. Juniors—Plaza, Peabody-Carberry School; Rosedale, Benning School; Virginia Avenue, Lenox School; Bloomingtondale, Burroughs School; Georgetown, Curtis School.

Including the interclass and interschool leagues, 375 teams with a personnel of 4,800 girls took part in the games. The divisional cham-

pions in the interschool matches were awarded trophies by the playground department for a 1-year period while the interclass champions received pennants.

GIRLS' TENNIS ON COLORED GROUNDS

As in past years every playground held a tennis tournament and the winners were placed in a championship tourney. The city was divided into sections, eastern and western, with Willow Tree winning the east title and Rose Park taking the honors in the west. In the playoff for the city championship Rose Park won two straight sets.

COLORED GIRLS IN SCHLAG

Interclass and interschool leagues in schlag were organized in the colored schools on the same plan as the white. Senior and junior leagues were organized for interclass play in the Mott, Birney, Magruder, Cook, Douglass-Twining, Logan, Cardoza, Randle Junior High and Francis Junior High School. Howard and Rose Park playgrounds had divisional games with Mott School winning the title on Howard and Phillips School on Rose Park.

COLORED GIRLS IN TRACK

Cardoza playground won the second annual interplayground field and track meet for girls in the largest event of its kind ever held for colored girls. It was Cardoza's second victory. The number of girls competing was double that of the first year of the meet, 800 taking part in the games this past year.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Activities on playgrounds are not confined to highly organized tournaments and leagues as may be gathered from the foregoing. Quite to the contrary a considerable portion of the playground day is spent in diversions not listed in the named special features.

Practically all games known to children are played and it is the duty and ambition of each of the directors to know and teach as great a variety of games as possible.

The little tots play many games not competitive and as the age of the child increases games of higher organization are of interest to them.

Naturally a great part of the directors' time is spent in teaching games. Tennis is the one sport that many demands are made for instructions in, and many of the playgrounds use paddle tennis courts, one-fourth the size of the regulation court, to teach the rudiments to the small children.

Volley is popular with both the older boys and girls while quoits are the most generally used part of the playground equipment. Youngsters who can just toddle attempt to throw "ringers," boys, girls, men, and women pitch them by the hour.

Horseshoe pitching is the favorite sport of many playground frequenters, while the Washington playground invention, "tin-can golf," is played with as much interest as in the first year that it was

organized. Tether, mass play games, speed ball, and many other games, some of which are invented by the boys, are played daily on the Washington playgrounds.

SWIMMING POOLS

In pool administration safety is the first consideration. All precautions are taken to lessen the possibility of accident of any kind. So far there has never been a serious accident in any of the pools; minor injuries have been few. Sanitation is given much attention; the water is chemically treated in accordance with the prescribed health department formula.

Municipal swimming pools maintained and operated during the year by the playground department consist of 6 pools, 3 located at Seventeenth and B Streets SW., 1 at Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE., 1 at Thirty-third and Volta Place NW., and 1 at Fifth and W Streets NW.

MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOLS

Under the direction of the superintendent, F. J. Brunner, the municipal bathing pools at Seventeenth and B Streets SW., were opened June 17, and closed September 29. Eleven elementary swimming classes were held each day during the vacation period. In addition to elementary swimming there were classes in life-saving. The pools were open from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. From 6 a. m. to 9 a. m., the pools were used for mixed bathing and from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m., on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the pools were used for girls and women, and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays they were used for boys and men. The attendance shows again that July is the most popular month at the pool. The July classes of girls numbered 1,692; for boys, 1,791. August classes of girls numbered 1,347; for boys, 946. September classes of girls numbered 130; for boys, 76. The June classes of girls numbered 424; of boys, 346. This makes a total of 6,751. During the time a total number of 43,092 availed themselves of the free privilege of the pools. The pools, the largest of which is 45 by 100 feet, are emptied and scrubbed every night, and the water kept sterile by the introduction of chloride of lime.

PLAYGROUND SWIMMING POOLS

In charge of each playground pool is a life guard and a teacher of swimming, an attendant, and a key boy. Each pool will accommodate a hundred bathers at one time. The pools are of the open-air type, 28 feet wide by 75 feet long, with a sloping depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Each pool holds about 96,000 gallons of water, which is supplied from the city main. The water is filtered, and the pools so constructed that an overflow of water is always going off while they are in use. The water is frequently tested by the health authorities. The pools are emptied and scrubbed every night. They are open from June 15 to September 20. Free swimming instruction was given on all pools. Water carnivals and swimming meets were held for boys and girls. Attendance on Georgetown pool, 30,189; Rose-dale pool, 45,699; Howard pool, 38,144.

WADING POOL

The need of a wading pool on every playground was emphasized during the summer when those now in operation were patronized daily by more than 1,000 children. Different hours were arranged for boys and girls, and the water was changed between the morning and afternoon sessions, and the pools scrubbed each day.

There are five playground wading pools located as follows: One at Rosedale, Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.; 1 at Georgetown, Thirty-third and Volta Place NW.; 1 at Virginia Avenue, Virginia Avenue between Ninth and Eleventh Streets SE.; 1 at Garfield Park, Second and Virginia Avenue SE.; and 1 at Willow Tree, Third, Four-and-a-half, B, and C Streets SW. In addition to these, supervision of the wading pool for colored children in east Garfield Park was taken over early in August at the request of Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, because there had been a complaint of the conduct of the children who were permitted to use the tank unsupervised. A man was placed in charge and no other complaints were received during the summer. This wading pool was kept open from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. until September 15, with an average attendance of more than 100 children a day.

REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION

The division is in charge of an inspector who is responsible to the supervisor of playgrounds for the equipment on and the condition of all playgrounds. One new ground has been equipped this year. Apparatus on all grounds has been periodically inspected as to safety. Care is taken to detect any defective part before a break occurs. Some of the work on the grounds has been let by contract through the Engineer Department. The work of grading, fencing, and larger repairs has been done and very satisfactorily by the District of Columbia repair shop. The number of men on the labor roll has varied during the year. These men are responsible to the inspector for all work, material, and tools used in setting up apparatus and in making repairs necessary to worn apparatus. Worn basket balls, footballs, volley, soccer, and baseballs are returned to the storehouse, mended, and sent out again for use on the playgrounds.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Delinquency is closely related to the use of leisure time. The kind of opportunities afforded children after school and during vacation days has an appreciable effect in determining whether they are to be law-abiding young citizens or juvenile delinquents.

If Washington is to provide recreation facilities to meet the needs the thickly populated sections should first be considered. Playgrounds on the outskirts of the District can not hope for maximum attendance.

There has been neglect in obtaining in-town areas, as may be seen by the lack of play space in the various close-in sections. After the in-town playgrounds are provided, it is well to buy for future use in outlying sections while land is obtainable at acreage prices.

In the opening of new subdivisions in the city one-tenth of the ground exclusive of streets should be set aside for playground use and

the price of the ground so set aside might be prorated among the lots laid out for sale, adding little to any one purchase and assuring a playground for the neighborhood properly placed.

Playground space should be from 2 to 5 acres. Areas too small create dissatisfaction rather than approval. A community is never satisfied with a playground which meets the needs of the younger children only.

The skill of an engineer and a landscape gardener might well be brought to bear now in developing in-town areas so that a playground investment should represent more than a play space, it should be such as to increase land values in the neighborhood as would a beautiful park. Why not spend as much money on the children proportionally as on the grownups?

We estimate the number of children and young people benefited daily by the playgrounds exceeds, except on Sundays possibly, the number of persons who enjoy the parks of the city daily. It would seem that an amount equal to the children's share in money which goes to beautify the public parks should, for a time at least until we catch up, be spent on the beautification of the children's play spaces. If a part of every playground could be treated and kept up as a park it would not only add to the beauty of the city, but would add greatly to the comfort and pleasure of those of our citizens least able to take care of themselves.

Field houses should be constructed that are attractive and suited to the neighborhood, and the buildings should be of such size as to provide an indoor recreation room to be used in extremely hot, cold, or stormy weather. At the present with the exception of Virginia Avenue, Georgetown, and Rosedale, the shelters on the playfields which the District owns are not a credit to the city. The stone lodges constructed by the Federal Government on the park playgrounds are pleasing in appearance and generally satisfactory. Even these, however, should have a larger playroom for indoor use.

I would again emphasize the need of improving many of our grounds by providing for field houses, grading, surfacing, and draining the grounds, for fencing, setting border strips, trees and shrubs, in general making the playgrounds comfortable by having them beautiful. Every section of the city should have an athletic field large enough to include a running track. All playfields should be landscaped and planted. Wading pools should be constructed on many of the grounds.

I take pleasure in presenting this report and have much pride in calling your attention to the splendid corps of playground workers, and to the hearty cooperation of the various city departments. I am grateful to all who have aided us. In closing I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the daily press of the city for having contributed to the pleasure of the children and the success of the year by so generously giving space to our activities, bringing before the public the achievements of the playgrounds.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSIE ROOT RHODES,
Supervisor of Playgrounds.

